

WHEREAS, The NEPA requires completion of a DEIS, a Final Environmental Impact Statement, and Record of Decision, which are designed precisely to weigh all reasonable alternatives in an open process before rendering a final decision; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General Assembly urges the Governor to direct the Secretary of the Department of Transportation to restart and bring to its full conclusion a National Environmental Policy Act environmental impact statement process on the Intercounty Connector, as recommended by the Montgomery County Planning Board's Transportation Policy Report Task Force, and carry that process through to a Record of Decision as prescribed by law; and be it further

RESOLVED, That such a study include at least one alternative along the ICC Master Plan Alignment for a limited-access, east-west, multi-modal connector road which would accommodate general purpose, HOV/carpool, and bus-rapid-transit service, with integrated hiker-biker trails, to facilitate access between Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Greater Baltimore, and other locations throughout the State of Maryland, with modern environmental design and mitigation techniques such as elevated "end-on" construction, limited tunneling in key sections, community-oriented and aesthetically pleasing landscaping and design, and advanced storm drainage filtration and collection systems that would make this facility a national model for environmentally sensitive, community-oriented design and mitigation techniques; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; the Honorable John D. Porcari, Secretary of the Department of Transportation; the Honorable Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Lieutenant Governor of Maryland; and the Members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation.

Signed May 16, 2002.

Joint Resolution No. 16

(Senate Joint Resolution No. 10)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Preservation of Agricultural Land

FOR the purpose of establishing a statewide goal to preserve ~~1.1 million acres of~~ agricultural land in Maryland.

WHEREAS, Agricultural land is an exhaustible resource of the State which, once removed from agriculture, is forever lost for crop and food production, and for open space uses; and